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DEFINITION OF WORKING AIDS

(Editor's Note: This definition of Working Aids is being distributed to the Branch Chiefs before the next staff meeting and the appearance of the first Working Aid. The purpose of this is to give the Branch Chiefs an opportunity to contribute additions or alterations to the following thoughts.)

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The concept of an all-source Working Aid arises from the nature of the intelligence research process and the time urgency of the Soviet problem, which preoccupies a large segment of the US intelligence community.

The primary need in economic intelligence, of course, is to learn as much as possible about Soviet economic activities and to examine these for implications regarding Soviet capabilities and intent. The finished economic intelligence report is the customary way of presenting whatever conclusions can be supported by an analysis of the economic facts at hand and passing them on to the top-level [redacted] During the economic intelligence research process, however, quite often an analyst will develop a hypothesis simply as a means of getting started or as a way of relating certain facts in the most plausible manner. He may then proceed to collect all the information available and still feel justified in talking in terms of only the most tentative or preliminary kinds of interpretation of the information. Or, an analyst may wish to do a research paper on a subject which by its nature rates fairly low on the ladder of economic intelligence, e.g., a study on the methods of exercising financial controls at the rajon level in the USSR.

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In such instances as the foregoing, or when, for any other reason, the economic research product is considered to be of primary interest to other intelligence analysts concentrating on selected aspects of the Soviet economy, rather than to top-level [redacted] all-source research papers published by Strategic Division, Office of Research and Reports, will be termed Working Aids. Those Working Aids which provide a basis for collecting and analyzing additional information or those which provide the basis for extending a hypothesis to a reasonably firm intelligence conclusion, may be re-worked and distributed as finished intelligence reports at a later date as shifting intelligence needs may warrant.

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NSA review completed

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